

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 14 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 13 and 18, as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A vacuum device comprising:

a driven body provided within a vacuum chamber;

a driving means provided outside said vacuum chamber, which rotates and moves up/down said driven body; and

a drive shaft connecting said driven body to said driving means to transmit a drive force of said driving means to said driven body, further comprising:

a first annular body secured to said drive shaft inside said vacuum chamber, which rotates around an axial center thereof;

a second annular body rotatably supported by said first annular body and moving up/down with said first annular body as one body;

a bellows capable of expanding/contracting, which is provided within said vacuum chamber so as to airtightly seal the periphery of said drive shaft, with one end thereof secured to said second annular body and with another end thereof secured to an inner wall of said vacuum chamber; and

a first seal member provided between said drive shaft and said second annular body.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 13, wherein said vacuum chamber is a vacuum cassette chamber and said driven body is a stage on which a cassette inside said vacuum cassette chamber is placed.

16. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 13, wherein said drive shaft airtightly passes through an inner wall of said vacuum chamber via a second seal member that allows movement of said drive shaft.

17. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 13, further comprising a means for pressure adjustment that adjusts the pressure in the space airtightly sealed by said bellows so as to sustain levels of the pressure in the space airtightly sealed by said bellows and the pressure inside said vacuum chamber substantially equal to each other.

18. (Currently Amended) A vacuum device comprising:
a driven body provided within a vacuum chamber;
a driving means provided outside said vacuum chamber; and
a drive shaft connecting said driven body to said driving means to transmit a drive force of said driving means to said driven body, further comprising:
a rotating body, through which said drive shaft passes, rotatably supported at an opening formed at a wall of said vacuum chamber; and

a bellows that connects said driven body to said rotating body so as to airtightly seal the periphery of said drive shaft and is allowed to expand/contract freely as said drive shaft moves up/down and rotates around said drive shaft together with said driven body and said rotating body.

19. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 18, wherein said rotating body is airtightly supported at said opening via a first seal member that allows rotation of said rotating body.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 18, wherein said rotating body airtightly encloses said drive shaft via a second seal member that allows movement of said drive shaft.

22. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 18, wherein an auxiliary shaft that passes through said rotating body and supports said rotating body while rotating in response to rotation of said driven body is provided at a position offset from said drive shaft.

23. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 22, wherein said auxiliary shaft airtightly passes through said rotating body via a third seal member that allows movement of said auxiliary shaft.

24. (Previously Presented) A vacuum device according to claim 18, further comprising a means for pressure adjustment that adjusts the pressure in the space airtightly sealed by said bellows so as to sustain levels of the pressure in the space airtightly sealed by said bellows and the pressure in said vacuum chamber substantially equal to each other.